

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 2327

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of the blue ribbon task force on early
3 childhood education.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. (a) The blue ribbon task force on early
6 childhood education is created to:

7 (1) study the resource needs of early childhood care
8 and education programs including Head Start, Early Head Start,
9 prekindergarten, and after-school programs;

10 (2) recommend options to secure additional funding for
11 these programs;

12 (3) analyze the barriers to and recommend combined
13 criteria for the integration of early childhood care and education
14 programs and Head Start programs, including differences in
15 standards required for teaching staff, child-to-staff ratios, and
16 the quality of instruction;

17 (4) establish a plan to implement, in phases, full-day
18 prekindergarten programs for at-risk children and expand the
19 eligibility criteria for those programs;

20 (5) develop eligibility criteria for community
21 partnerships between school districts, early childhood care and
22 education programs, and Head Start programs; and

23 (6) recommend methods to strengthen standards for
24 school districts that have lower standards than those of early

1 childhood care and education programs and Head Start programs.

2 (b) The task force consists of eight members. The
3 lieutenant governor shall appoint one member of the public to
4 represent the interests of key stakeholders involved in early
5 childhood education and three members of the senate. The speaker of
6 the house of representatives shall appoint one member of the public
7 to represent the interests of key stakeholders involved in early
8 childhood education and three members of the house of
9 representatives.

10 (c) The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
11 representatives shall each appoint one member as a co-presiding
12 officer.

13 (d) The task force shall convene at the call of the
14 presiding officers.

15 (e) Not later than September 1, 2006, the task force shall
16 report the task force's findings and recommendations to the
17 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
18 and the members of the 79th Legislature.

19 SECTION 2. This Act expires September 1, 2007.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.